

MICHAEL



My son Michael, who has Down syndrome, attended North Sydney Early Intervention. He is now 27. He started at North Sydney Early Intervention in about September 1993 when he was 2 and continued until 1995. I only attended the Centre on Fridays (one day a week for 2 hours) as we live at Cronulla. I do not recall how I found out about North Sydney as I was using other services at Miranda). Michael received physio, occupational and speech therapy through that Centre. He also attended their early intervention group.

When I started with Michael at North Sydney I was immediately impressed with the teaching standards and the program which I remember had a good reputation. Michael made friends

and I also enjoyed meeting the other mothers. As a group we often met outside of the Centre for picnics and get togethers which gave us an opportunity to exchange information regarding our children's education, health issues etc.

The program taught Michael a lot of things concentrating on hand co-ordination and appropriate behaviour in a group. I believe that Early Intervention helped Michael immensely when he went to school. He fitted into St Aloysius Catholic Primary School at Cronulla very well as he was prepared for all the tasks.

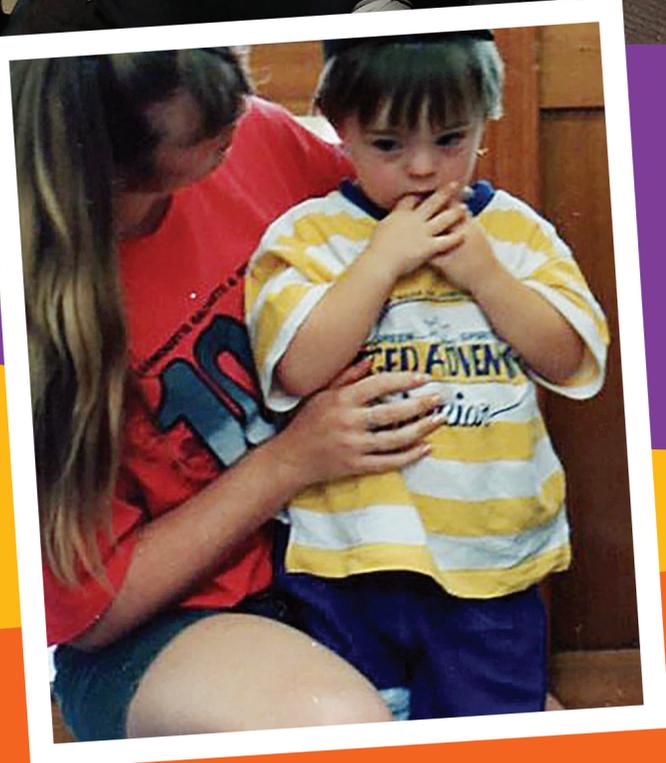
Michael made lots of friends, who he still is in contact with today, and I feel this was only because of the early intervention he had as a young child.

Michael proceeded through primary and secondary education in the Catholic system until Year 11 when he changed schools and attended a special unit in a public school for the last 2 years.

After school he gained employment in a Recruitment firm in the city and has been there 9 years. He loves his job.

I can only reiterate that the Early Intervention Program helped Michael achieve to his highest ability and I thank everyone for that help.

Margaret, Mother of Michael



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